

## **Planning Guidance Letter #97-05**

### **Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration**

CECW-PM (18 Feb 1997)

#### **MEMORANDUM FOR MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS**

Subject: Planning Guidance Letter #97-5 - Implementation of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (WRDA 96), Section 206, Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration

1. This memorandum provides preliminary guidance on implementation of the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program.
2. Authority. Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (WRDA 96) authorizes the Secretary to carry out projects for aquatic ecosystem restoration and protection if the Secretary determines that the project will improve the quality of the environment, is in the public interest, and is cost-effective. It requires that a non-Federal interest provide 35 percent of the cost of construction including all lands, easements, rights-of-way and necessary relocations as well as 100 percent of all operation, maintenance, replacement and rehabilitation costs. Not more than \$5 million in Federal funds may be spent at a single locality. The program is limited to \$25million in appropriations in a fiscal year.
3. Planning and Program Management. Section 206 projects will be accomplished in a manner generally consistent with the plan formulation and evaluation concepts outlined in EC1105-2-210, Ecosystem Restoration in the Civil Works Program. Project justification will require the use of cost effectiveness and incremental cost analysis techniques. However, program procedures and documentation requirements will generally follow the existing section 1135 process. Funds would be budgeted and appropriated at the program level, and managed through the Continuing Authorities Program database.
4. Further Actions. We plan to develop program guidance by the end of the 3rd quarter. However, program implementation will be subject to appropriation of funds in Fiscal Year 1998 or a future year. My point-of-contact for program implementation is Rennie Sherman, CECW-PM. She may be contacted at 202-761-1975 or by E-mail.

(Signed) RUSSELL L. FUHRMAN, Major General, USA, Director of Civil Works